

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 191132 TOSEC 080328

FOLLOWING USUN 2568 SENT ACTION LONDON SECSTATE INFO BONN
DAR ES SALAAM GABORONE LAGOS LUSAKA MAPUTO OTTAWA PARIS
PORT OF SPAIN PRETORIA CAPE TOWN AUG 12, 1977 REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2568

PORT OF PSAIN FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

AMEMBASSY LONDON PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR MCHENRY

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY VANCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UN, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: TALKING POINTS FOR SECRETARY'S MEETING
WITH SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA

1. FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS ON NAMIBIA WERE DRAWN
UP BY NEW YORK CONTACT GROUP LATE AUGUST 11. WE
HAVE NOT HAD TIME TO OBTAIN FORMAL COMMENTS OF
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DEPARTMENT BUT WE ARE FOWARDING TALKING POINTS
FOR POSSIBLE USE BY SECRETARY VANCE IN HIS AUGUST 12
MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA.

2. TALKING POINTS HAVE NOT BEEN SEEN BY
AMBASSADOR MCHENRY.

3. QUOTE:

THE AGREED NON-PAPER (USUN 2566) IS IN EFFECT A FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVE RECORD OF AOUR TALKS. WE MUST ACCEPT THAT, DESPITE WHAT WE SAID TO SWAPO ABOUT CONFIDENTIALITY ITS CONTENTS MAY BECOME KNOWN TO BOTHA WITHIN A FEW DAYS. THE BRIEFING TOMORROW WILL HAVE THEREFORE TO FOLLOW BROADLY THE LINES OF THE PAPER. THERE IS THE RISK THAT BOTHA MAY SEIZE ON VARIOUS RECORDED VIEWS OF SWAPO AS PROOF OF THEIR UNREASONABLE RIGIDITY AND OF OUR INABILITY "TO MAKE PROGRESS". IT MIGHT BE WELL THEREFORE TO TELL BOTHA THAT WE THINK THAT IN THIS FIRST ROUND OF TALKS SWAPO WERE AT PLACES PUTTING FORWARD MAXIMALIST POSITIONS FOR THE RECORD AND THAT THERE IS MORE FLEXIBILITY IN THEIR POSITION THAN THEY WERE PREPARED TO SHOW AT THIS FIRST ROUND OF TALKS.

WE RECOMMEND THAT, DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES, THE POINTS IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS MIGHT BE BROUGHT PARTICULARLY TO BOTHA'S ATTENTION.

AS REGARDS THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL, SWAPO WERE FLEXIBLE TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY DID NOT ATTEMPT TO STICK ON THEIR STRICT JURIDICAL POSITIKON. THEY INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD NOT RAISE OBJECTION TO THE APPOINTMENT PROVIDED THAT THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

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WOULD HAVE THE POWER TO APPROVE THE ACTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATION IN SO FAR AS THE TRANSITIONAL PROCESS WAS CONCERNED. THE FIVE HAD ADHERED TO THEIR POSITION THAT THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE WOULD HAVE TO SATISFY HIMSELF ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL'S PERFORMANCE OF HIS TASKS. THIS IS AS MUCH AS WE COULD HAVE EXPECTED FROM SWAPO AT THIS STAGE. BUT WE MUST CONTINUE TO IMPRESS UPON THE SOUTH AFRICANS THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THEIR NOT RUSHING AHEAD WITH THE INSTALLATION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL.

AS REGARDS WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES, SWAPO HAD STATED, POSSIBLY AS AN INITIAL BARGAINING POSITION, THAT ALL SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY FORCES MUST BE OUT BEFORE THE ELCTORAL CAMPAIGN COULD BEGIN. THE FIVE HAD REPLIED THAT IN THEIR VIEW THE SOUTH AFRICANS COULD NOT BE PURSUADED TO ACCEPT THIS PACE OF WITHDRAWAL AND THAT WE BELIEVED THAT SWAPO'S PREOCCUPATIONS ABOUT INTIMIDATION MIGHT BE MET BY OTHER PROCEDURES. HOEVER, WE MUST CONTINUE TO IMPRESS UPON THE SOUTH AFRICANS THAT IT IS

ESSENTIAL AND IN THEIR OWN INTERESTS,
PARTICULARLY NOW THAT SWAPO HAS ACCEPTED THE
PRINCIPLE OF A CEASE-FIRE, THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS
THEMSELVES PREPARE A PLAN FOR THE PHASED WITHDRAWAL
OF THEIR MILITARY FORCES.

SWAPO ARGUED STRONGLY FOR A PEACEKEEPING FORCE.
THE FIVE SAID THAT THE NEEDS OF THE SITUATION
COULD IN THEIR VIEW BE MET JUST AS EFFECTIVELY BY
CIVILIAN OR MILITARY OBSERVERS ATTACHED TO THE
STAFF OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE. IT WAS
IMPORTANT THEREFORE THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS
INDICATE THAT THEY WERE READY TO ACCEPT THAT
UN OBSERVERS SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THEIR MILITARY
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UNITS REMAINING IN NAMIBIA.

THE OPPORTUNITY MIGHT ALSO BE TAKEN TO WARN
BOTH OF THE UNWISDOM OF OFFICIAL ENCOURAGEMENT
FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF TURNHALLE. SWAPO SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN
EASY GROUND FOR ARGUING THAT AN IMPARTIAL ELECTION
WAS IMPOSSIBLE SO LONG AS THERE WAS SOUTH AFRICAN
PARTICIPATION IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

BOTHA MIGHT BE TOLD THAT THE FIVE AMBASSADORS IN
CAPE TOWN WOULD WISH TO CONDUCT A MORE COMPREHENSIVE
REVIEW OF THE SITUATION WITH HIM NEXT WEEK IN
PRETORIA, ONE OF THE OBJECTS OF WHICH WOULD BE
TO DECIDE UPON A TIME AND PLACE FOR A FURTHER ROUND
OF TALKS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. UNQUOTE LEONARD
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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